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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

James J. Hanlon,) No. CV-23-00177-PHX-SPL
Plaintiff,)
vs.)
Jerry Jennex, et al.,)
Defendants.)
ORDER

Before the Court are Plaintiff James J. Hanlon’s (“Plaintiff”) Motion for Temporary Restraining Order (“TRO”) and Preliminary Injunction (Doc. 2) and Memorandum in Support (Doc. 3). Plaintiff brings this action against Defendants Jerry Jennex and Globe Unified School District (together, “Defendants”), alleging violations of his First and Fourteenth Amendment rights, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, as well as various state-law claims. Plaintiff’s claims arise out of Defendants’ removal of Plaintiff from his position as Globe High School Principal. Specifically, Defendants placed Plaintiff on administrative leave and voted to non-renew Plaintiff’s contract for the 2023–2024 school year. Plaintiff alleges that these actions violated his constitutional rights. (See Doc. 1, “Complaint”).

Plaintiff seeks to enjoin Defendants from “continuing Plaintiff on ‘administrative leave’ and requiring Defendants to immediately reinstate Plaintiff to his position as Globe High School Principal until the Court can address the procedural, substantive, and statutory concerns raised in Plaintiff’s Complaint.” (Doc. 2 at 1–2).

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1 A party seeking injunctive relief under Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil
 2 Procedure must show that: (1) it is likely to succeed on the merits; (2) it is likely to suffer
 3 irreparable harm in the absence of injunctive relief; (3) the balance of equities tips in its
 4 favor; and (4) an injunction is in the public interest.¹ *Winter v. Nat. Res. Def. Council, Inc.*,
 5 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008); *Pom Wonderful LLC v. Hubbard*, 775 F.3d 1118, 1124 (9th Cir.
 6 2014); *Pimentel v. Dreyfus*, 670 F.3d 1096, 1105-06 (9th Cir. 2012); *Stuhlbarg Int'l Sales*
 7 *Co., Inc. v. John D. Brush & Co., Inc.*, 240 F.3d 832, 839 n.7 (9th Cir. 2001). Where the
 8 movant seeks a mandatory injunction, rather than prohibitory, injunctive relief is “subject
 9 to a heightened scrutiny and should not be issued unless the facts and law clearly favor the
 10 moving party.” *Dahl v. HEM Pharms. Corp.*, 7 F.3d 1399, 1403 (9th Cir. 1993).²

11 Unlike a preliminary injunction, *see* Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(a), a temporary restraining
 12 order may be entered “without written or oral notice to the adverse party,” Fed. R. Civ. P.
 13 65(b). A TRO may issue, *ex parte*, only where there are: “(A) specific facts in an affidavit
 14 or a verified complaint clearly show that immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage
 15 will result to the movant before the adverse party can be heard in opposition; and (B) the
 16 movant’s attorney certifies in writing any efforts made to give notice and the reasons why
 17 it should not be required.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(b).

18 Here, Plaintiff states that “Defendants will be provided with copies of the
 19 Complaint, this Motion, and Plaintiff’s Memorandum of Points and Authorities via email
 20 immediately after this document is filed with the Court.” (Doc. 2 at 2). However, Plaintiff

21 ¹ The Ninth Circuit observes a “sliding scale” approach, in that these elements “are
 22 balanced, so that a stronger showing of one element may offset a weaker showing of
 23 another.” *All. for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632 F.3d 1127, 1131 (9th Cir. 2011). Thus,
 24 by example, an injunction can issue where there are “serious questions going to the merits”
 25 and a balance of hardships that tips sharply towards the plaintiff . . . so long as the plaintiff
 26 also shows that there is a likelihood of irreparable injury and that the injunction is in the
 27 public interest.” *Id.* at 1135.

28 ² “A mandatory injunction orders a responsible party to take action,” while “a
 29 prohibitory injunction prohibits a party from taking action and preserves the status quo
 30 pending a determination of the action on the merits.” *Marlyn Nutraceuticals, Inc. v. Mucos*
 31 *Pharma GmbH & Co.*, 571 F.3d 873, 879 (9th Cir. 2009) (internal quotation marks
 32 omitted). “The ‘status quo’ refers to the legally relevant relationship between the parties
 33 before the controversy arose.” *Ariz. Dream Act Coal. v. Brewer*, 757 F.3d 1053, 1060–61
 34 (9th Cir. 2014).

1 has not filed any proof that such notice actually occurred, and the Court cannot simply
2 assume that it did. Moreover, Defendants have not yet appeared in this action. The Court
3 must treat Plaintiff's request as seeking a TRO *without* notice. That being the case, Plaintiff
4 has failed to establish either prong necessary for a TRO to issue without notice. First,
5 although Plaintiff asserts specific facts in his verified Complaint relating to the irreparable
6 injuries he faces, Plaintiff fails to allege any facts that go to the *immediacy* of such harm.
7 In other words, Plaintiff has not demonstrated that the harms he alleges are *so immediate*
8 that relief cannot wait for Defendants to at least be given a chance to be heard in opposition.
9 Second, Plaintiff has failed to offer any reasons—in his Motion or in his Complaint—why
10 notice should not be required in this case. In sum, Plaintiff fails to meet the Rule 65(b)
11 requirements for granting a TRO without notice.

12 Nonetheless, given the nature of the harm alleged, the Court will exercise its
13 discretion to expedite briefing and advance a hearing on Plaintiffs' request for a
14 preliminary injunction. Accordingly,

15 **IT IS ORDERED:**

16 1. **TRO**: That Plaintiff's Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and
17 Preliminary Injunction (Doc. 2) is **denied to the extent it seeks a TRO**.

18 2. **Service**: That, no later than close of business on **January 30, 2023**, Plaintiff
19 must serve a copy on Defendants and file proof of service with the Court of the following:
20 (1) the Complaint; (2) the Motion and Memorandum for Temporary Restraining Order and
21 Preliminary Injunction and any attachments; and (3) this Order.

22 3. **Hearing**: That a Preliminary Injunction Hearing is set for **February 10, 2023**
23 **at 9:00 a.m.**, before the Honorable Judge Steven P. Logan, United States District Judge,
24 in the Sandra Day O'Connor United States Courthouse, located at 401 West Washington
25 Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003, 5th Floor, Courtroom 501.

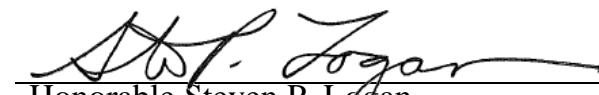
26 4. **Briefing**: That Defendants shall have until **February 6, 2023** to file any
27 Response to Plaintiff's Motion for a Preliminary Injunction; Plaintiff shall have until
28 **February 8, 2023** to file any Reply in support of their Motion.

1 5. **Joint Notice**: That the parties shall file a Joint Notice by **February 1, 2023**,
2 indicating whether the Motion may be decided on the briefing and argument of counsel
3 alone.

4 6. **Proposed Injunction**: That Plaintiffs shall submit a proposed form of
5 preliminary injunction no later than **February 3, 2022**.

6 7. **Warning**: That if Defendants do not respond to the Motion for a Preliminary
7 Injunction or fail to appear at the above-scheduled hearing, the Court will deem such failure
8 as consent to granting the motion, *see* LRCiv 7.2(i).

9 Dated this 27th day of January, 2023.

10 
11 Honorable Steven P. Logan
12 United States District Judge

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